

Composition of the State of Massachusetts Senate

Year	Session	Total Days in Session	Number of Seats	Democrat	Republican	Independent	Other	Note
1780	1st		40					Year the state constitution was signed
1781	2nd		40					
1782	3rd		40					
1783	4th		40					
1784	5th		40					
1785	6th		40					
1786	7th		40					
1787	8th		40					
1788	9th		40					
1789	10th		40					
1790	11th		40					
1791	12th		40					
1792	13th		40					
1793	14th		40					
1794	15th		40					
1795	16th		40					
1796	17th		40					
1797	18th		40					
1798	19th		40					
1799	20th		40					
1800	21st		40					
1801	22nd	80	40					
1802	23rd	86	40					
1803	24th	92	40					
1804	25th	92	40					
1805	26th	102	40					
1806	27th	107	40					
1807	28th	113	40					
1808	29th	99	40					
1809	30th	84	40					
1810	31st	72	40					
1811	32nd	58	40					
1812	33rd	80	40					
1813	34th	74	40					
1814	35th	85	40					
1815	36th	100	40					
1816	37th	111	40					
1817	38th	127	40					
1818	39th	120	40					
1819	40th	122	40					
1820	41st	146	40					
1821	42nd	137	40					
1822	43rd	142	40					
1823	44th	116	40					
1824	45th	138	40					

Note: Vacancies means that the seats were empty for part of the session.

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1825	46th	158	40					
1826	47th	144	40					
1827	48th	81	40					
1828	49th	92	40					
1829	50th	92	40					
1830	51st	100	40					
1831	52nd	120	40					
1832	53rd	113	40					
1833	54th	130	40					
1834	55th	137	40					
1835	56th	147	40					Extra session of 62 days to revise statutes
1836	57th	150	40					
1837	58th	164	40					
1838	59th	170	40					
1839	60th	170	40					
1840	61st	148	40					
1841	62nd	126	40					
1842	63rd	163	40					Extra session of 9 days to create Congressional Districts
1843	64th	175	40					
1844	65th	134	40					
1845	66th	115	40					
1846	67th	135	40					
1847	68th	136	40					
1848	69th	120	40					Extra session of 3 days to choose electors of Pres. and Vice Pres.
1849	70th	109	40					
1850	71st	129	40					
1851	72nd	144	40					
1852	73rd	206	40					
1853	74th	155	40					
1854	75th	164	40					
1855	76th	176	40					
1856	77th	163	40					
1857	78th	147	40					Extra session of 18 days to establish districts for Councilors, Representatives and Senators
1858	79th	157	40					
1859	80th	183	40					Extra session of 113 days to revise general statutes
1860	81st	156	40					Extra session of 14 days to consider disease of cattle in Commonwealth
1861	82nd	163	40					Extra session of 10 days to consider public duty in relation to the Rebellion
1862	83rd	157	40					
1863	84th	181	40					Extra session of 8 days to provide for raising the quote for 300,000 men (Rebellion)

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1864	85th	155	40					
1865	86th	162	40					
1866	87th	158	40					
1867	88th	170	40	0	40			
1868	89th	151	40	10	38			
1869	90th	196	40	2	38			
1870	91st	169	40	10	29		1 Labor Reform	
1871	92nd	179	40	5	34		1 Labor Reform	
1872	93rd	171	40	0	35		5 Democratic & Labor Reform	Extra session of 30 days to consider legislation regarding the Nov. great fire in Boston
1873	94th	156	40	1	39			
1874	95th	143	40	11	25	4		
1875	96th	178	40	15	24	1		
1876	97th	178	40	9	30	1		
1877	98th	165	40	7	33			
1878	99th	165	40	5	35			
1879	100th	162	40	5	35			
1880	101st	206	40	5	32		3 Other	
1881	102nd	163	40	5	35			Extra session of 10 days regarding revising the statutes
1882	103rd	171	40	4	36			
1883	104th	182	40	18	22			
1884	105th	150	40	14	25		1 Other	
1885	106th	150	40	5	34		1 Other	
1886	107th	144	40	11	28		1 Other	
1887	108th	153	40	14	25			
1888	109th	206	40	10	30			
1889	110th	151	40	7	33			
1890	111th	144	40	11	29			
1891	112th	161	40	20	20			
1892	113th	144	40	14	25	1		
1893	114th	156	40	10	30			
1894	115th	116	40	7	33			
1895	116th	144	40	4	36			
1896	117th	114	40	7	33			
1897	118th	204	40	5	35			
1898	119th	158	40	7	33			
1899	120th	149	40	7	33			
1900	121st	155	40	9	31			
1901	122nd	154	40	9	31			Extra session of 7 days regarding revising the statutes
1902	123rd	200	40	7	33			
1903	124th	179	40	9	31			
1904	125th	226	40	9	31			
1905	126th	184	40	6	34			

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1906	127th	144	40	9	31			
1907	128th	232	40	12	28			
1908	129th	221	40	9	31			
1909	130th	Did not meet	40	6	34			
1910	131st	305	40	7	33			
1911	132nd	Did not meet	40	14	26			
1912	133rd	158	40	14	26			
1913	134th	Did not meet	40	14	26			
1914	135th	204	40	17	21		2 Progressive	
1915	136th	165	40	12	28			
1916	137th	182	40	5	34		1 Labor Democrat	Extra session of 3 days to legislate for MA soldiers called to the Mexican border; and regarding reapportionment of Suffolk County into Representative districts
1917	138th	165	40	6	34			
1918	139th	239	40	7	33			
1919	140th	228	40	10	30			Extra session of 36 days regarding various topics
1920	141st	319	40	7	33			Extra session of 16 days regarding the revision of the General Laws
1921	142nd	186	40	5	35			
1922	142nd	179	40	5	35			
1923	143rd	157	40	7	33			
1924	143rd	255	40	7	33			
1925	144th	277	40	6	34			
1926	144th	262	40	6	34			
1927	145th	290	40	5	35			
1928	145th	254	40	5	35			
1929	146th	324	40	9	31			
1930	146th	144	40	9	31			Extra session of 3 hours on Oct. 20 to commemorate the tercentenary of the first General Court held in MA
1931	147th	206	40	10	30			Extra session of 46 days to consider changing the law relative to rates for compulsory motor vehicle liability insurance
1932	147th	319	40	10	30			
1933	148th	186	40	14	26			Extra session of 27 days to consider regulation and control of liquor traffic
1934	148th	364	40	14	26			
1935	149th	246	40	19	21			
1936	149th	364	40	19	21			
1937	150th	200	40	13	27			
1938	150th	237	40	13	27			Extra session of 3 days to provide funds for devastation caused by hurricane and floods
1939	151st	237	40	12	28			First year of the biennial session
1940	151st	309	40	12	28			

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1941	152nd	187	40	15	25			
1942	152nd	331	40	15	25			Extra session of 6 days regarding funds for the war emergency
1943	153rd	213	40	14	26			
1944	153rd	371	40	14	26			Extra session of 15 days regarding voting by citizens in the armed forces; and regarding the issuance of licenses based upon safety of places of public assembly
1945	154th	282	40	17	23			First year to return to annual sessions
1946	154th	364	40	17	23			
1947	155th	190	40	16	24			
1948	155th	306	40	16	24			
1949	156th	186	40	20	20			
1950	156th	364	40	20	20			
1951	157th	364	40	18	22			
1952	157th	363	40	18	22			Extra session of 6 days to repeal provisions of law providing pensions or retirement allowances for elected state legislators and officials; and to revise laws providing travel and other expenses to members of the legislative branch
1953	158th	362	40	15	25			
1954	158th	364	40	15	25			Extra session of 1 day to provide funds regarding hurricane; and to revise law regarding retirement of certain veterans of WWI
1955	159th	371	40	19	21			
1956	159th	364	40	19	21			
1957	160th	322	40	19	21			
1958	160th	364	40	19	21			
1959	161st	364	40	24	16			
1960	161st	364	40	24	16			Extra session of 3 days regarding various topics
1961	162nd	371	40	26	14			
1962	162nd	364	40	26	14			Extra session of 1 day regarding cessation of service by the Metropolitan Transit Authority
1963	163rd	364	40	28	12			
1964	163rd	364	40	28	12			
1965	164th	364	40	27	13			
1966	164th	371	40	27	13			Extra session of 24 days regarding various topics
1967	165th	364	40	26	14			
1968	165th	364	40	26	14			
1969	166th	364	40	27	13			
1970	166th	363	40	27	13			
1971	167th	363	40	30	10			
1972	167th	371	40	30	10			
1973	168th	363	40	33	7			Extra session of 6 days regarding the energy crisis
1974	168th	363	40	33	7			

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1975	169th	363	40	33	7			
1976	169th	364	40	33	7			
1977	170th	371	40	33	7			
1978	170th		40	33	7			Extra session of 2 days to consider removal of Robert M. Bonin, Chief Justice of the Superior Court
1979	171st		40	34	6			
1980	171st		40	34	6			Extra sessions totaling 14 days covering the Constitutional Convention and the MBTA
1981	172nd		40	32	7		1 Other	
1982	172nd		40	32	7			
1983	173rd		40	32	8		1 vacancy	
1984	173rd		40	32	8			
1985	174th		40	32	8			
1986	174th		40	32	8			
1987	175th		40	31	9			
1988	175th		40	31	9			
1989	176th		40	32	8			
1990	176th		40	32	8			
1991	177th		40	24	16			
1992	177th		40	24	15		1 vacancy	
1993	178th		40	31	9			
1994	178th		40	31	9			
1995	179th		40	30	10			
1996	179th		40	28	10		2 vacancies	
1997	180th		40	33	7			
1998	180th		40	33	7			
1999	181st		40	32	7		1 vacancy	
2000	181st		40	33	7			
2001	182nd		40	34	6			
2002	182nd		40	32	7		1 vacancy	
2003	183rd		40	34	6			
2004	183rd		40	33	6		1 vacancy	
2005	184th		40	34	6			
2006	184th		40	34	6			
2007	185th		40	34	5		1 vacancy	
2008	185th		40	35	5			
2009	186th		40	32	5			
2010	186th		40	34	4		2 vacancies	
2011	187th		40	36	4			
2012	187th		40	36	4			
2013	188th		40	35	4		1 vacancy	
2014	188th		40	36	4			
2015	189th		40	34	4			
2016	189th		40	33	5		2 vacancies	

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Sources:

Leading the Way : a History of the Massachusetts General Court, 1629-1980

The Massachusetts Political Almanac

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